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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 AID-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DRC-01

/065 W
---------- 058171
R 071708Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9003

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6007

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CO
SUBJECT: MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA

REF: STATE 212801

1) I DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AT BREAKFAST THIS MORNING BOGOTA MEETING. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT BOTH BOGOTA MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BE INFORMAL AND WITHOUT AGENDA SO THAT THERE WILL BE MAXIMUM EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. HE ALSO BELIEVES SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY SHOULD DEAL WITH GENERAL POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES AND AVOID CONFRONTATION. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO REQUEST OTHER MINISTERS TO PRONOUNCE THEMSELVES ON PANAMA CANAL.

2) I ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE STILL PLANNED TO LEAVE FOR BOGOTA NOVEMBER 13 AND HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. HE SAID THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEETING. HE HAD HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE INFORMAL, WITHOUT AGENDA, AND WITHOUT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. NOW HE UNDERSTOOD THE "EXPERTS" ARE TO MEET BEFORE NOV. 14
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TO PREPARE AN AGENDA, ETC. THE PROPOSED THEMES ARE

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TECHNICAL-GATT NEGOTIATIONS, MONETARY POLICY, ETC. HE
FAILED TO SEE HOW THE MINISTERS COULD PREPARE USEFULLY
FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY IF THEY WERE GOING TO
FALL INTO THE OLD OAS ROUTINE. EVEN THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE SECRETARY HAD BECOME CONFUSED. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD IN
NEW YORK THAT HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST
MEETIN AND THEN THE COLOMBIANS INVITED HIM.

3) I AGREED WITH HIM ON THE DESIRABILITY OF AN INFORMAL
MEETING AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY DESIRED
DISCUSSION IN WHICH WE (THE U.S. AND LATINS) COULD FIND
COMMON GROUND FOR CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND
AVOID CONFRONTIATIONS. WE DID NOT NEED ANOTHER LIST OF OUR
SINS SUCH AS WE RECEIVED AFTER THE MEETING AT VINA DEL
MAR. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND HIS
OBJECTION TO AN AGENDA DESIGNED TO CONCERT LATIN
AMERICA'S POSITION FOR GATT AND IMF NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT
I DID THINK THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN HAD TO REACH A
GENERAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE DIRECTION OF TRADE RELATIONS
OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DECADES AND THAT I HOPED WE
WOULD ALL BE REALISTIC ABOUT IT.WE HAD GONE TO PUNTA
DEL ESTE IN 1967 AND ALL PRONOUNCED OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF
A LATIN AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. AFTERWARDS LAFTA
BECAME EVEN MORE MORIBUND AND THE SMALL AND MEDIUM
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEGAN IN EARNEST TO FORM REGIONAL
MARKETS. ARGENTIAN, BRAZIL AND MEXICO AS EXISTING
"COMMON MARKETS" STOOD ALOOF. HE AGREED THAT AFTER
PUNTA DEL ESTE LATIN AMERICA DID A 180 DEGREE TURN ON TRADE
ARRANGEMENTS AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC
THIS TIME.

4) THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING
ON THE RIO TREATY OR SECURITY WOULD BE BROUGHT UP. HE
ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO REISE THE CANAL ISSUE
BUT WAS AWARE THAT THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND
OTHER MIGHT. I SAID THAT INCLUSION OF CANAL ITEM IN A
DOCUMENT THAT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC WOULD NOT HELP AT ALL;
THAT WE ARE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE CONGRESS AS
AN AFTERMATH OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. I URGED THAT
HE TRY TO PERSUADE THE OTHER MINISTERS, IF THE SUBJECT
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DID ARISE, TO PUT THEIR VIEWS IN A SEPARATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY. HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT
HELP NEGOTIATIONS TO INCLUDE THE PANAMA CANAL ON THE
AGENDA, REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE
SUBJECT, AND PROMISED THAT IF IT DID COME UP HE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT IT BE HANDLED SEPARATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY
WITH THE SECRETARY.
SAYRE

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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